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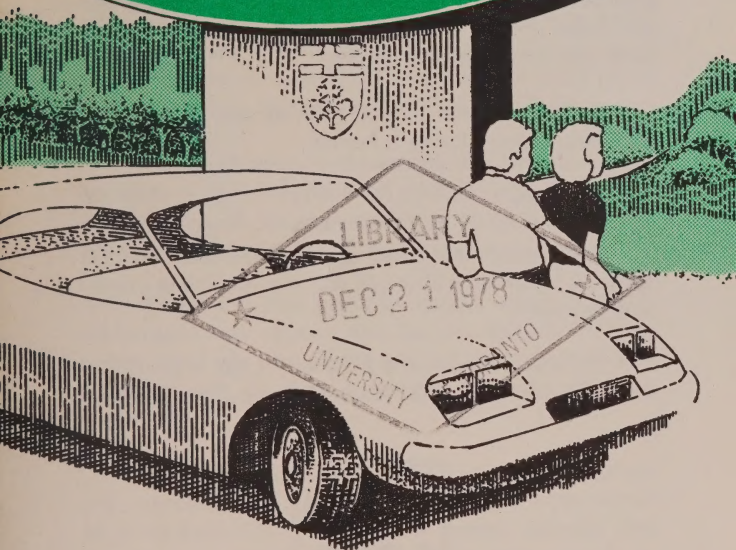
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Welcome to  
**ONTARIO**



Ministry of  
Transportation and  
Communications

# WELCOME TO ONTARIO

## What you need to know about our traffic laws

The Province of Ontario is a favourite vacation-land for several million visitors each year.

And because we want you to have an enjoyable and safe holiday — and come back again — we would like to explain some of Ontario's more important traffic laws.

### Driver's Licence

An Ontario driver's licence is not required:

- For a period of six months by a resident of another province of Canada who is at least 16 years old and holds a valid driver's licence from another province;
- For a period of three months by a resident of another country or state who is at least 16 years old and holds a valid driver's licence from the country or state in which he or she resides;
- For a period of one year by the holder of a valid International Driver's Permit.

### Speed Limits

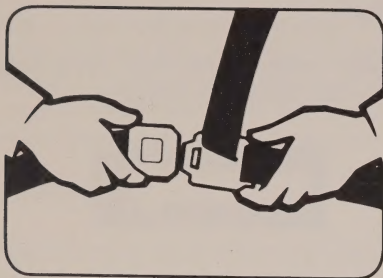
The maximum speed in cities, towns, villages and built-up areas is 50 km/h (30 m.p.h.) unless otherwise posted.

On open highways it is 80 km/h (50 m.p.h.); on provincial freeways, 100 km/h (60 m.p.h.); on High-



way 17 from the Manitoba boundary to the Quebec boundary and on Highway 11 between North Bay and Rainy River, it is 90 km/h (55 m.p.h.). These maximum limits are clearly posted on all roadways.

## Seat Belts



The law in Ontario requires the driver and all passengers five years old and 23 kg (50 lb.) in weight and over to wear seat belts while travelling in a motor vehicle equipped with them. Failure to do so could result in a fine of up to \$100. The driver is liable for all passengers over five and under 16 years of age.

Where shoulder harness and lap belt straps are separate in cars manufactured prior to January 1, 1974, the wearing of the shoulder strap is optional but lap belts must be worn.

Where the back seat of a station wagon is down, passengers may occupy that space unbuckled. Where safety belts are part of the original equipment in cars supplied with air bags, only the lap belts must be worn.

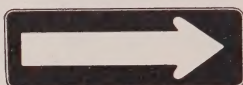
If a person is unable to wear seat belts for physical, psychological or medical reasons, a letter signed by a medical doctor stating the reason exempts that person from the seat belt law. This letter should be carried in the motor vehicle at all times. There is no prohibition against carrying passengers in seats for which the manufacturer has not provided seat belts.

## Drive on the right

Always keep well to the right, except when you intend to overtake and pass another vehicle, or when you intend to make a left turn. On multi-lane streets or highways, slower traffic should keep to the right. It is an offence to block overtaking traffic by driving in the passing lane.

## Symbol Signs

The sign means traffic may travel only in the direction in which the sign is pointing.



These signs are mounted above the roadway on the approach to an intersection and each sign is centred over the lane it controls. When in a lane controlled by one of these signs, the motorist may only make the manoeuvre indicated on the sign. A driver in lane #1 must go straight ahead. Lane #2 is optional, either turn left or straight ahead. Lane #3 is optional, either turn right or straight ahead.



This sign, when erected overhead designating a lane, reserves the use of that lane for left turns only. You may not drive in that lane unless you intend to make a left hand turn.





## **No left turn**

You may not make a left turn at many intersections in some cities especially during rush-hours. Signs are posted at these intersections and must be obeyed.

## **Turning on red light**

Unless a sign indicates otherwise, a right turn may be made on a red light. However, before entering the intersection, you must first bring your vehicle to a full stop and proceed only when the way is clear of pedestrians or traffic approaching from your left.

## **Flashing green light**

A flashing green light means you may turn left, turn right, or go forward, while opposing traffic is still stopped for a red light.

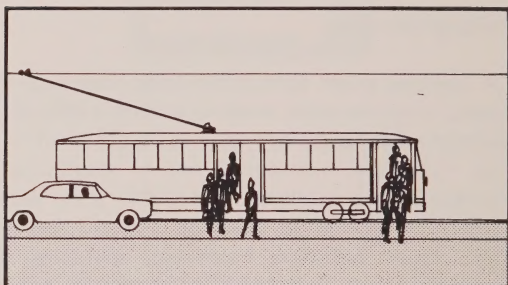
## **Climbing and passing lanes**

On many two-lane highways, climbing and passing lanes have been provided so drivers will not take unnecessary risks in passing. A sign gives advance information of such a lane 2 km ahead. You are required to drive to the right when you reach it unless you are overtaking a slow moving vehicle. Normally, the passing lane may be used by traffic travelling in either direction. It is recommended that you sound a warning when using the passing lane.



## Passing street cars

In Metropolitan Toronto, you may pass street cars only on the right hand side. Passing on the left is only permitted on one-way streets. If a street car is stopped, or is about to stop, to pick up or discharge passengers, stay at least 2 m (6 ft.) behind the rear-most door at which passengers are getting on or off. This rule does not apply at a properly designated safety island or zone but always pass these at a cautious speed, making allowances for sudden or unexpected pedestrian actions.



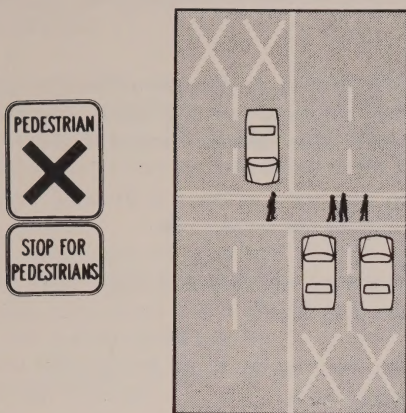
## Stopping for school buses

On undivided roadways, traffic travelling in both directions must stop for a chrome yellow school bus that has its red signal lights flashing. You may not pass the school bus until the flashing lights are turned off or the bus resumes motion. On divided controlled-access roadways (with a median), traffic coming towards a school bus on the other side of the median does not have to stop.

## Pedestrian crossovers

Pedestrian crossovers are identified by signs and markings shown in this diagram. At such crossovers, you must yield the right of way to pedestrians allowing them free and uninterrupted passage by slowing down or stopping if necessary. Keep in mind that crossovers are often located some distance from intersections.

IT IS DANGEROUS AND UNLAWFUL TO PASS A VEHICLE WITHIN 30 m (100 ft.) OF A PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER.



## Emergency vehicles

If you hear a police, fire, ambulance or public utility emergency vehicle bell or siren, or see a flashing red light mounted on the vehicle, move out of the way. Pull over to the right edge of the roadway, clear of any intersection — and stop. On one-way streets or highways, pull over to the nearest curb. Proceed only when the emergency vehicle has passed.

## Railway crossings

At level railway crossings, slow down, listen, and look both ways to make sure the way is clear before attempting to cross the tracks. If a train is approaching, stop not less than 5 m (15 ft.) from the nearest track. It is an offence to drive through, around or under a crossing gate or barrier at a railway crossing while the gate or barrier is closed, or is being opened or closed.

## Freeway driving

When entering a freeway in Ontario, use the entrance ramp and acceleration lane to speed up until you are going about as fast as the traffic on the freeway.

Signal, look for an opening in traffic, then move into the travel lane.

Do not stop in an acceleration lane unless traffic is too heavy and there is no space for you to enter safely.

When you are on a freeway and see an entrance ramp ahead, be ready to slow down, speed up, or change lanes if other vehicles want to enter.

When you want to leave a freeway, watch the signs and choose the correct exit.

Be in the correct lane and signal your intention to turn off.

Reduce your speed in the deceleration lane, not on the freeway lanes.

On the exit ramps, safe speeds are posted. If you miss your exit, do not stop. Maintain your speed and leave at the next exit. Do not stop. Do not back up. Do not turn around.

Be alert for "must exit" signs. They give warning that the lane you are travelling in is an exit lane. If you do not wish to leave the freeway, change lanes as soon as it is safe to do so. If a lane change cannot be made safely, you must exit.

Remember, it is dangerous and against the law to drive on or across the median of a freeway or highway.

## **Hitchhiking**

Hitchhiking is against the law on some portions of highways such as those in the 400 series and The Queen Elizabeth Way.

It is permitted on other roadways if the hitchhiker stays off the paved portion of the roadway.



## Towing

When towing a trailer, another vehicle or similar device in Ontario, there must be two separate means of attachment. Thus if one fails, the vehicles will not become detached.

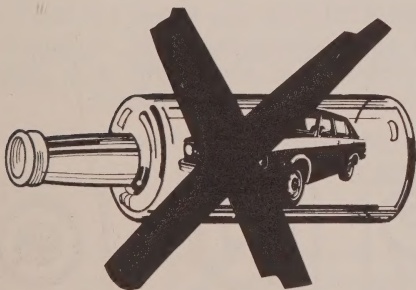
Except in the case of a commercial motor vehicle, you are permitted to tow only one vehicle, trailer or similar device. No person or persons may be carried in a house trailer or boat trailer while your car is in motion.

No combination of vehicles, including trailers, may exceed 21 m (68 ft. 10-49/64 in.) in length. Maximum height is 4.15 m (13 ft. 7-3/8 in.); maximum width is 2.60 m (102-23/64 in.).

## Drinking and driving

Drinking is a contributing factor in many fatal motor vehicle accidents. Under the Criminal Code of Canada, you can be convicted for any of the following offences:

- Refusing to take a breathalyzer test;
- Having a breathalyzer reading of greater than 80 mg (0.08 per cent) of alcohol per 100 mL of blood;
- Being impaired by alcohol or a drug. It is not necessary to be over 0.08 per cent to be charged with being impaired.



## Lights

Headlights, not parking lights, are required from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and at any time when visibility prevents you from seeing clearly persons and vehicles at a distance of 150 m (500 ft.) or less.

As the name implies, parking lights should be used for parking only.

Driving with one headlight or with improperly aimed lights is illegal.

Your motor vehicle may not be equipped with more than one spotlight and the high intensity light cannot be aimed to the left of your vehicle, nor more than 30 m (100 ft.) ahead, when approaching another vehicle.

## Studded tires

Studded tires are illegal in Ontario. You may not use them under any circumstances.

## Parking

Do not park on the travelled part of a highway. Drive off the road onto the shoulder before stopping to change a tire or for any other reason.

Never park on a curve, hill, or any other place on a highway unless there is a clear view for at least 120 m (400 ft.) in both directions.

Look for and obey signs that restrict local parking.

A NO STOPPING sign means it is illegal to stop a vehicle even momentarily except, of course, when necessary because of other traffic or in compliance with a police constable, a sign or signal.



A NO STANDING sign means it is illegal to stop except to take on or discharge passengers.

A NO PARKING sign means it is illegal to stop except to take on or discharge passengers and/or merchandise.

It is unlawful to park within 3 m (10 ft.) of a fire hydrant.

## **Traffic violations**

If you are not a resident of Ontario and are charged by a police officer for a traffic law violation, you have two choices:

- If you wish to plead guilty to the offence, in most cases you may sign the plea form on the summons issued to you by the police officer, detach it, and forward it along with a cheque or money order covering the amount of the fine to the court named on the summons.

- If you wish to plead not guilty to the offence, you must appear in court on the date specified on the summons.

If you do not appear in court you may be convicted in absentia. You then stand the chance of being apprehended by authorities before you leave Ontario or if you return at a later date for non-payment of the fine.

## **What to do in case of a collision**

Stop.

If possible, move the vehicles as soon as you can to allow traffic to pass.

Give all aid possible to anyone who has been injured. Call a doctor, ambulance or fire department, if necessary.

It is an offence to leave the scene of an accident in which you are directly or indirectly involved without rendering assistance, and upon request, giving in writing to anyone sustaining loss or injury, or to any

police officer, or witness, your name and address and the name and address of the registered owner of the vehicle.

### **Report.**

If you are directly or indirectly involved in an accident resulting in personal injury, or property damage exceeding \$400, report the accident to the nearest police officer. If you are not capable of making such a report, another occupant of your car must do so.

## **Insurance**

United States motorists travelling in Ontario should ask their insuring companies for a Canadian Non-Resident Inter-Province Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Card. It is pale yellow in color and is available to U.S. motorists only through their own insurance companies. This card will be accepted as evidence of financial responsibility by police authorities anywhere in Canada. Possession of a Non-Resident Inter-Province Card, properly filled out by an insurance company representative, is an indication that the insuring company has agreed to abide by the minimum limits of financial responsibility prevailing in the various provinces of Canada including Ontario.

Motorists from other provinces should carry their pink insurance cards.

## **Bicycles**

Bicyclists in Ontario have the same rights to use the road and the same responsibilities to obey traffic laws as do the drivers of other vehicles. However, bicyclists are not allowed to drive on freeways or wherever signs are posted prohibiting them.

## **Mopeds**

To drive a moped (motor-assisted bicycle) in Ontario, you must have either a driver's licence or a temporary instruction permit from your home province, state or country or an International Driver's Permit.



Mopeds are prohibited on expressways and freeway-type highways such as the 400 series, The Queen Elizabeth Way, and The Queensway (Ottawa).

To drive a moped, you must also have insurance for public liability and property damage.

It is illegal to carry a passenger on a moped.

All moped drivers must wear an approved helmet that meets the motorcycle helmet regulations. They must meet the standards of the Canadian Standards Association, Snell Memorial Foundation, the British Standards Institute or the United States of America Federal Motor Safety Standard 218. Helmets must bear the appropriate monogram or certificate.

## **Motorcycles**

You may not operate a motorcycle on Ontario roadways unless you hold a licence from your home province, state or country authorizing the operation of a motorcycle. Motorcyclists must obey the same traffic laws as drivers of other vehicles.

It is required by law that a helmet be worn at all times by both the driver and passenger when riding a motorcycle. Lights are compulsory at all times — day and night.

## **Snowmobiles**

In Ontario, you may drive your snowmobile on public trails, in public parks and conservation areas, except where prohibited.

Snow vehicle operator's courses are available in Ontario to train young persons aged 12-15 and those 16 and older who don't possess a valid driver's licence.

Course graduates receive a proficiency certificate which can be validated as a snow vehicle operator's licence at any MTC driver examination centre for a \$2.00 fee.

Holders aged 12 and 13 may operate a snowmobile on public trails; aged 14 and 15 on public trails and crossing a highway at a 90° angle; 16 and over

may operate on public trails, crossing highways at a 90° angle and on highways where permitted.

To operate a snowmobile along those highways in Ontario where it is permissible to do so, you must be at least 16 years old and be the holder of a valid driver's licence, or snow vehicle operator's licence.

Except where prohibited, you may drive along a highway on the unplowed part of the shoulder up to the property fence, provided you drive as far away from the serviced road as possible. Generally, you may not drive on the serviced portion (from shoulder to shoulder) of a highway, except to cross, and this you may do only at a 90° angle.

You may not operate a snowmobile anywhere on a freeway.

The written permission of the owner is required before you may operate your snowmobile on any, private land. Failure to obtain permission could result in a trespassing charge.

A helmet must be worn by every person driving or riding a snowmobile or being towed by one on a cutter, toboggan, sled or similar device when on a highway or public trail.

Before driving a snowmobile on a highway or public trail, it must be insured under a motor vehicle liability policy.



Snowmobiles are prohibited on a street or highway where this sign is posted.



Snowmobiles are permitted on a street or highway where this sign is posted.

If in doubt, check with local authorities before operating your snowmobile in Ontario.

## **O.P.P., R.C.M.P. and local police**

Provincial highways, some villages and small towns and rural areas are patrolled by the Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.).

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) generally patrol Federal Government installations in Ontario such as the Toronto International Airport.

Cities and towns in Ontario have their own local police forces.

### **ROAD CONDITION REPORTS**

Winter road condition reports are available 24 hours a day between November and April by telephoning the nearest Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications office. Information can be obtained on weather and road conditions in any part of the Province before starting out on your trip from any of the offices listed below:

BANCROFT	332-3220	NORTH BAY	474-0044
BURLINGTON	639-2427	OTTAWA	745-7049
CHATHAM	354-7504	OWEN SOUND	376-7350
COCHRANE	272-4333	PORT HOPE	885-6381
HAMILTON	639-2427	SAULT	
HUNTSVILLE	789-2391	STE. MARIE	256-5682
KENORA	468-6494	STRATFORD	271-3550
KINGSTON	544-2220	SUDBURY	522-9380
LONDON	681-2047	THUNDER BAY	577-6451
NEW		TORONTO	248-3561
LISKEARD	647-6761		

### **ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE**

#### **District Headquarters**

DISTRICT No. 1,	CHATHAM	352-7660
DISTRICT No. 2,	LONDON	681-0851
DISTRICT No. 3,	BURLINGTON	681-2591
DISTRICT No. 5,	DOWNSVIEW	248-3151
DISTRICT No. 6,	MOUNT FOREST	323-3130
DISTRICT No. 7,	BARRIE	726-7160
DISTRICT No. 8,	PETERBOROUGH	748-5522
DISTRICT No. 9,	BELLEVILLE	968-6495
DISTRICT No.10,	PERTH	267-2626
DISTRICT No.11,	LONG SAULT	534-2209
DISTRICT No.12,	NORTH BAY	472-4343
DISTRICT No.13,	SUDBURY	675-1361
DISTRICT No.14,	SAULT STE. MARIE	254-1415
DISTRICT No.15,	SOUTH PORCUPINE	235-3345
DISTRICT No.16,	THUNDER BAY	344-8421
DISTRICT No.17,	KENORA	468-8971

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